

the Howard County **VOTER**

NOVEMBER, 2019

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Beth Hufnagel, President

Not only are we past the fall equinox (September 23), but it is finally starting to feel like autumn! I've got my guest list set for my very first time hosting Thanksgiving dinner, and the idea of heating up the kitchen with baking is starting to sound appealing.

Our second Unit Meeting in October, Climate Action Update: What's Up in Annapolis 2020? and Howard County Government Initiatives, was led by our own Betsy Singer and Shari Glenn (*See Environment Action Report, page 6*) and I hope gave you reassurance that there are indeed actions that can and are being taken now.

The LWVHC held its first book club meeting in October, reading the book *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss. I thought this would be a slog, information I should know but would have to be disciplined to get through. Much to my surprise, it was a page-turner! For example, on page 61 "In spite of every effort to curb my militant tendencies, " [Sue] White explained to [Carrie] Catt, "my mind continues to revert to the suggestion of Abigail Adams ... that the ladies might be constrained to foment a rebellion. Is a hundred years behind the times conservative enough?" That was in 1917.

Sometimes I get feedback that the League can still be 'behind the times.' Well, that's certainly not true for our current Equity in Education Study, member-approved at our latest Annual Meeting in April 2019! A chairperson was appointed and subsequently, a study committee was formed after a call for volunteers. The committee is looking at the League's present position on education to make a determination on what changes could/should be brought to the membership for consensus next April, 2020.

In the meantime, two actions were taken in our county that are relevant to our study. First, the County Council proposed a resolution (CR112) to ask that the Board of Education study ways to address diversity and equity and have more socioeconomically integrated schools. At its September Board meeting, using current League positions the Board voted to send a letter of support to the County Council on their resolution.

In August, Superintendent Martirano, introduced his redistricting plan. Public input was requested and the Board of Education set a series of workshops to work on the plan. The LWVHC has made no comments either for or against the plan. It should be noted, however, that there are strong statements of support for equity and diversity in education at all levels of the League of Women Voters.

See you November 20 or 21 for discussions on the Electoral College, right in the wheelhouse of the League's mission to advocate for fair government!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 7

LWVHC Board Meeting
Oakland Manor
7:00 – 8:30 PM
5430 Vantage Point Rd.
Columbia, MD

NOVEMBER 9

Voter Registration
2:00 – 5:00 PM
Elkridge Branch Library
6540 Washington Blvd.
Elkridge, MD 21075
To volunteer, contact
Cheryl Wharton, 443-690-0028

NOVEMBER 10

Veterans Parade
Historic Ellicott City

NOVEMBER 22

Thanksgiving
LWVHC Office Closed

NOVEMBER 20 & 21

Unit Meetings
Electoral College, Yes? No?
November 20 at Vantage Point
(formerly Vantage House)
10:00 AM
November 21 at Oakland Manor
7:00 PM

DECEMBER 2 & 11

Voter Registration Training
December 2, 7:00 PM
December 11, 10:00 AM
Board of Elections
9770 Patuxent Woods Dr., #200
Columbia, MD 21046
Contact Cheryl Wharton
443-690-0028

*The League of Women Voters
is where hands-on work to
safeguard democracy leads to
civic improvement.*



PROGRAM REPORT

Thea Jones, Vice-President and Program Director

Unit Meetings

Do you have an opinion about the Electoral College and how it affects our democracy? Do you know why we have an Electoral College? Do you think that we should abolish the Electoral College? Do you think that we should keep it? You can answer all of these questions after you attend one of our two unit meetings in November.

At our November meetings, we'll talk about how the Electoral College damages our democracy and how the League is working to abolish it in favor of a direct popular vote for electing the President and Vice-President. The League of Women Voters United States (LWVUS) adopted this position in 1970 and most recently updated it in 2010. What should we do next? Please join this interesting and lively discussion on The Electoral College, Yes or No?

Unit Meetings for 2019–2020

October Unit Meeting Update: We were very fortunate to have Betsy Singer and Shari Glenn, both LWVHC Board members, present very informative meetings in October! They have been involved in Howard County and State of Maryland environmental organizations for many years and they are very knowledgeable about what is happening at the local, state and national level. Everyone came away from the October Unit Meetings with excellent information to help us better understand the issues that we can and should follow in this changing world. *(See Environment Action Report on page 6.)*

November Unit Meetings: *The Electoral College, Yes? No?*

Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 10:00 AM at the Residences at Vantage Point (formerly Vantage House), 5400 Vantage Point Road, Columbia, MD 21042. *(Please ask for directions to the meeting room when checking in at the receptionist's desk.)*

Thursday, November 21, 2019, 7:00 PM at Historic Oakland Manor, 5430 Vantage Point Road, Columbia, MD 21042

December: There are no December Unit Meetings, however, mark your calendars for an important and enlightening meeting in January! We will be joining with the Savage Branch of the Howard County Public Library System to present ***Becoming Engaged in Your Community.***



We are very fortunate to have as our guest speaker Candace Dodson-Reed, chief of staff to UMBC's Office of the President, Freeman Hrabowski. Candace is also the co-host, with Tom Coale, of Elevate Maryland, a podcast which explores the policies, people, and stories that "elevate" the conversation and find out what matters most in our communities.

This meeting will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Savage Branch at 9525 Durness Lane, Laurel, MD 20723. We look forward to seeing you there!

ABOUT US

Officers

President: *Beth Hufnagel*
Vice President: *Thea Jones*
Secretary: *Virginia Kirk*
Treasurer: *Barbara Russell*

Directors

Action: *Linda Wengel*
External Communications:
Patricia Laidig
Education: *Krista Threefoot*
Environment: *Betsy Singer*
Fundraising: *Michelle Rice Trotter*
Environment: *Betsy Singer*

Internal Communications:
Nancy Carlsen

Membership: *Shari Glenn*

Program: *Thea Jones*

Assistant Director of Program:
Lucie Geinzer

Publications: *Amber Treat*

Voter Services/Webmaster:
Cheryle Wharton

Women's Equity: *Cynthia Williams*

Off Board

Great Decisions/Gift Card

Fundraiser: *Sue Buswell*

Great Decisions: *Janis Cripe*

LWVNCA Liaison: *Andrea Gruhl*

Nominating Committee

Ellen Giles Flynn

Betsy Grater

Cheryle Wharton

Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland

Cynthia Williams

Contact Us

Howard County LWV
 5430 Vantage Point Rd. Suite C
 Columbia, MD 21044

410-730-0142

info@howard.lwvmd.org



Education Report

Krista Threefoot, Director of Education

The Equity in Education Study Committee continues to meet on a regular basis as we work to determine the changes and additions to our League’s positions that will be proposed to members at our April 2020 Annual Meeting. We hope to have a presentation and discussion for consensus in March 2020.

At the present time, we are remaining data-focused and we continue to try to determine the kind of data that we need to examine and where to find it. We have examined the specific impact that high concentrations of poverty are having in our schools as well as cuts to programs targeted to address issues of equity. The information regarding schools with high numbers of students on Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) and their educational attainment is important to the committee and there is a brief overview of the FARMS program below. All of the data still needs to be refined and cross checked. Once we’re sure that what we have is 100% accurate, we will begin to write possible statements that will be used at the consensus meeting.

Coincidentally, the League voted to do the Equity in Education Study several months before the Superintendent proposed his redistricting plan and he, too, is attempting to deal with equity in education. Many of the issues that we are studying have a strong correlation to the redistricting plan and we are trying to remain focused on our specific topic as the community becomes embroiled in the pros and cons of the Superintendent’s plan and its implementation. At this time, the League has not taken a position regarding the Superintendent’s redistricting plan, however, the Board did vote to support the County Council’s resolution to urge the Board of Education to address equity in Howard County.

The following statement was sent to the County Council on behalf of the LWVHC:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOWARD COUNTY SUPPORT FOR CR-112

The Board of Directors of the Howard County League of Voters, voted to support CR-112 at its monthly meeting on September 5, 2019. Our support concurs with a LWVUS position supporting federal efforts to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems.

The League recognizes that demographic changes, zoning laws and housing patterns in Howard County have created great socioeconomic disparities in school populations resulting in significant achievement gaps among lower income students. There is considerable evidence that student achievement improves in integrated classrooms.

The League believes that CR -112’s call for the Howard County Public School System to develop a plan to integrate its schools comes at an appropriate time and urges its passage by the Council and the County Executive.

The LWVHC Board has also been following the public conversation surrounding this issue. We have been saddened to see some of the comments being made about families of color and families who rely on income assistance. These are our neighbors and friends, and as a nonpartisan organization, we wish to reiterate our commitment to serving *all* people in our county.

Free and Reduced Meals

The Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) program is referred to frequently in the current community dialog. In the interest of providing accurate information and background on this program, we offer the following.

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program that operates as part of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Program of the United States Department of Agriculture. The mission of the FNS states: “Working with our public, private and non-profit partners, our mission is to increase food security and reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet and nutrition education in a way that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence. No American should have to go hungry.” The NSLP serves children in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. The program was established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, signed into law by President Harry Truman in 1946. In 2016, the program reached 30.4 million children. You can find more information on the FNS at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/program/assistance-children-kindergarten-12th-grade>



Education Report (con't)

Although started as a lunch program in 1946, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act has been expanded to include breakfast (1966) and these programs are commonly referred to as the Free and Reduced Meals Program (FARMS.)



The information below has been created to bring some understanding of the FARMS program as it is implemented in the Howard County Public Schools. Our school system provides a website which can be accessed at <https://www.hcpss.org/food-services/farms/> and this includes an application, an extensive Q&A section, income requirements, etc. Questions can also be answered by phone by calling 410-313-6743.

Qualification is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential. All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can get free meals regardless of income, and students from households that meet federal income guidelines are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals. Those eligible for reduced-price meals pay \$0.20 for breakfast and \$0.30 for lunch. Guidelines are set annually by the Department of Agriculture. All HCPSS students receive the paper application on the first day of school so as to not to cause embarrassment to any student. After the online application has been submitted and reviewed, eligibility notifications are sent via email/mail. Generally, families must submit a new application every school year. Students who qualify are often also eligible for other federally-supported programs.

Income Eligibility Guidelines

Household size and income is the most common way to determine eligibility. For example, a child from a family of four is eligible for free school meals if the household’s current annual income is below \$33,475. If the family’s annual income is between \$33,475 and \$47,638, the child is eligible for reduced-price meals.

Children enrolled in a Head Start program, certified as homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, or children living in households that receive Food Supplement Program (FSP) or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) benefits are eligible for free meals and do not need to fill out an application. Some FSP and TCA households will receive a letter from the school informing them that children in the household are eligible for free meals.

Income Eligibility Guidelines for Maryland (Effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020)

| Household Size | Free Meals | | | Reduced-Price Meals | | |
|----------------|------------|---------|-------|---------------------|---------|-------|
| | Year | Month | Year | Month | Year | Month |
| 1 | \$16,237 | \$1,354 | \$313 | \$23,107 | \$1,926 | \$445 |
| 2 | 21,983 | 1,832 | 423 | 31,284 | 2,607 | 602 |
| 3 | 27,729 | 2,311 | 534 | 39,461 | 3,289 | 759 |
| 4 | 33,475 | 2,790 | 644 | 47,638 | 3,970 | 917 |
| 5 | 39,221 | 3,269 | 755 | 55,815 | 4,652 | 1,074 |
| 6 | 44,967 | 3,748 | 865 | 63,992 | 5,333 | 1,231 |
| 7 | 50,713 | 4,227 | 976 | 72,169 | 6,015 | 1,388 |
| 8 | 56,459 | 4,705 | 1,086 | 80,346 | 6,696 | 1,546 |

For each additional family member, add:

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| | \$5,746 | \$479 | \$111 | \$8,177 | \$682 | \$158 |
|--|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|

Income Eligibility Guidelines for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 as published by the Maryland State Department of Education

**If you are interested in helping us with research or data analysis,
please contact Krista Threefoot at two3feet@yahoo.com or 301-351-8912.**



LWVHC 2020 Legislative Kick-off

Beth Hufnagel



The LWVHC legislative kick-off is scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 10:00 AM–noon at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 9120 Frederick Road, Ellicott City Maryland. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

Currently, we are looking for individuals to assist in coordinating this wonderful event. The following opportunities are available, with a very brief description of what each position entails .

Kitchen Chair: Coordinate food and beverage offerings, set up and take-down.

Membership Exhibit Chair: Obtain materials from the office and set up membership table and materials.

Program Chair: Make introductions and coordinate script with the Moderator. Work with timekeeper and AV aide before the start of the program.

Fundraising Chair: Get tickets, pens and baskets from the office for 50/50.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please contact Kathy Vanston on or before November 7, 2019 via email [kathyvanston@gmail.com] or telephone [240-381-1513]. We would sincerely appreciate any help and/or guidance in making this event spectacular.

Thank you!

2019 Holland Awards Dinner – Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC)

Lucie Geinzer



Congressman Elijah Cummings

CAC’s 24th Annual Holland Awards Dinner at Turf Valley was truly a celebration of promise and potential. From the opening remarks of Dr. Calvin Ball honoring Congressman Elijah Cummings, through the moving personal testimonial of client-turned-staff-member Gwen Hebron, to the celebration of the service of Roy and Susan Appletree by the inimitable Vivian ‘Millie’ Bailey, we were surrounded by evidence of the powerful impact of those who care, support, and serve those in their communities. And, in the inspirational keynote of HCLS President & CEO Tonya Aikens, we were reminded that it is we who must be supporters of the promise in each member of our community and that - in the words of Rep. Cummings – ‘this is our watch!’

Member Badges: Order Yours Now!

In response to many requests, we will be placing orders for name tags twice a year. Our first order will be November 10th. Board Members and Volunteers can order them with a \$15 Donation. The size is 2 x 3 in. with a magnetic back.

To order, email hocolwv@gmail.com. Include the following information:

- Your name as you want it to appear on the badge
- Are you a Board Member or Volunteer?

You will receive a link to donate upon ordering.

An order is considered received when you have a confirmation email that it has been accepted.

All orders received prior to November 5th will be included in the initial order on Nov 10th. All orders received after November 5th will be included in the spring order of 2020.

Any questions, please contact Yvette Diamond. 301-712-8765



EXAMPLE: If Volunteer, it will say Volunteer not Board Member



Environment Action Report

Betsy Singer and Shari Glenn, LWVHC Board Members

The LWVHC October Unit Meeting featured updates on international, national, state and local positions and actions to address and mitigate Climate Change. Here are some highlights from what was a lively and informative discussion.

International Panel on Climate Change Report

The IPCC has been in existence for three decades and has shed light on climate change, contributing to the understanding of its causes and consequences and the options for risk management through adaptation and mitigation.

After the Paris Climate Agreement was signed on Nov. 3, 2016, the IPCC was asked do a special report on the impact of limiting the rise in global average temperature to 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F) above pre-industrial levels.

At the UN Climate Summit in New York less than a month ago, (September 25, 2019), IPCC released a report that, according to a front page story in the Washington Post, showed “climate change is already having staggering effect on the oceans and ice-filled regions that encompass 80 percent of Earth.

This Summit will also be remembered for the testimony of 16-year old Greta Thunberg from Sweden. “I don’t want you to listen to me, I want you to listen to the scientists.” “The eyes of future generations are upon you. If you choose to fail us, I say we will never forgive you.”

U.S. – Federal Level

The United States announced in June 2017 that it is leaving the Climate Paris Agreement. The earliest signatories can leave is 11/4/2020. Since the goals of the Agreement may well be too little, and it’s also non-binding, the biggest impact of the US withdrawal may be the lost momentum when the second largest emitter leaves the agreement.

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Maryland – State Level

- Federal Clean Water Act Modifications being fought by MD
Section 401 allows state and tribal regulators to “veto” a federal permit by finding the construction and operation of the permitted project would violate state water quality standards.
Relevant to this is the 2018 fight against Potomac pipeline development in western MD
- Offshore Wind for Maryland
The project is anticipated to come online in early 2021, with an operational life expectancy of more than 25 years. Over its lifetime the project will support hundreds of highly skilled jobs in engineering, construction and operation.
- Banned Hydraulic Fracturing for Gas in Maryland
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the first mandatory, market-based CO₂ emissions program in the US, is a cooperative effort among the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont to cap and reduce power sector CO₂ emissions.
- Maryland joined the U.S. Climate Alliance, formed by a bipartisan group of Governors in support of the Paris Climate Accord.
- Also discussed were ways in which other states around the country are moving ahead independently.



Greta Thunberg, speech to world leaders at UN Climate Action Summit. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAJsdqTPJpU>

Howard County – Began about 10 years ago

- Signed the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement
- Clean energy vehicle fleet (106 hybrids, 5 E/Vs)
- Required LEED certification for new large buildings (over 50,000 sq ft) and government buildings over 10,000 sq ft
- Climate Action Plan 2010 – greenhouse gas inventory (2008)
- Robinson Nature Center – LEED platinum; Parks & Open Space
- Trees – 60,000 planted between 2007 and 2012 (?)
- LiveGreenHoward.com - clearinghouse
- Home Energy Audits- energy efficiency recommendations
- Howard County Transit – 28 hybrid vehicles
- Green Infrastructure Network – 28,321 acres
- Recycling, composting, rain barrels, stormwater management
- Wastewater Treatment - Enhanced Nutrient Removal system
- GreenFest

Howard County TODAY:

- “We are Still In” declaration with the Paris Climate Agreement
- First County in US to accept US Climate Alliance’s Natural and Working Lands Challenge to reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration.
- Expansion of curbside composting to 10,000 additional homes.

2014 County Goals

- Receive 20 percent of power for local government from renewables, especially solar.
- Reduce petroleum fuel consumption in the government fleet by 20 percent.
- Cut energy use in government facilities by 25 percent.

Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping

by Michelle Rice Trotter, Director of Fundraising

Do you enjoy wrapping gifts, socializing during the holidays, helping out while having fun or would like volunteer hours for school? Well, how about getting in the holiday spirit by helping the League of Women Voters of Howard County raise money, for one of our best fundraisers of the year!

The League needs you! Volunteers are needed!

Join the fun and bring a friend. League members and non-members, alike, will have the opportunity to sign-up to wrap gifts on December 14 and December 21, 2019.

2-hour shifts are available and we need all shifts filled from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. You can choose to volunteer at the Barnes & Noble location in Ellicott City or at the Columbia Mall location or both stores! Please click on this link to sign up to volunteer! All that you need to bring is your enthusiasm and gift wrapping skills. Supplies will be provided.

Co-Chair needed for this event!

Additional questions or to be a co-chair, contact Michelle Trotter, email hocolwv@gmail.com.



Sign up to Volunteer!

To sign up for Saturday, December 14: <https://signup.com/go/NMbKEdw>

To sign up for Saturday, December 21: <https://signup.com/go/vSkynuk>

Long Gate Shopping Center
4300 Montgomery Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

The Mall in Columbia
10300 Little Patuxent Pkwy.
Columbia, MD 21044

Confession Time

Cynthia Williams



Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, 1909.
Courtesy: Library of Congress

Up until this week, I had no idea who founded the League of Women Voters, so I thought if anyone else didn't know, I would fill them in. We all know what good work the League does, and some of us may know that the League will be celebrating its 100th year in 2020, but do all know about Carrie Chapman Catt? For those of us that do not, here she is.

Carrie Chapman Catt was both a suffragist and a peace activist. She was born in 1859 in Ripon, Wisconsin, before relocating with her parents to Iowa. Carrie became the only woman in her graduating class at Iowa State Agricultural College (currently Iowa State). With her degree, she became a teacher, and later advanced to be superintendent of schools in Mason City, Iowa.

In the late 1880s, Catt began her career with the suffrage movement by joining the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association. She branched out by becoming involved with the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and became an outstanding speaker. Before long, she was giving speeches nationwide, as well as organizing local suffrage chapters. By 1900, she was elected president of NAWSA. In 1902, Catt founded the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in order to spread

democracy around the globe. When she suffered the losses of several people close to her, she went abroad serving as the president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, before returning home and helping to found the Woman's Peace Party in 1915, as well as resuming the presidency of NAWSA. During her stint as president from 1915 to 1920, the suffrage amendment (19th) became part of the Constitution. Catt has been credited with developing the "Winning Plan", coordinating state suffrage campaigns towards the initiative for a constitutional amendment, that later contributed to the final victory. In addition to all of the above, Catt consolidated New York City suffrage groups into the Woman Suffrage Party, which contributed greatly to the New York state suffrage victory in 1917 (where prior attempts had failed).

After founding the League of Women Voters in 1920 (where she served as the organization's honorary president until her death in 1947), Catt published a history of suffrage entitled *Woman Suffrage and Politics: The Inner Story of the Suffrage Movement* in 1923. She went on to give her attention to other issues such as child labor and world peace. In 1925, she founded the Committee on the Cause of War. Watching Hitler's power growing, she worked on behalf of German Jewish refugees, and was awarded the American Hebrew Medal in 1933.

The League of Women Voters has a lot to be proud of, not least of which is our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt. Such a great woman.

"We have secured the strength and the right to fight! Our great work is only beginning." Louisa Lawson (1848–1920)

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy...but we haven't always done it perfectly.

The suffrage movement was not inclusive of all women, and neither was the League. Black suffragists were forced to walk at the back of parades. The League deliberately created barriers for women of color to join and lead the organization. The women who achieved power through the passage of the 19th Amendment were unfortunately reluctant to expand that power to other women who didn't look like them.

The League of Women Voters has made mistakes. And as we move into our second century, we are striving to do better.

The League today is more diverse, more inclusive, and more equitable. We know our work is stronger when *all* women's voices are heard. As we look to our next 100 years, we aim to build power for the next generation of women leaders and voting rights activists. <https://www.lwv.org/sheisme/our-legacy>



Celebrating the Ratification of the 19th Amendment!

Thea Jones

Our First Celebration Activity - A 19th Amendment Book Club!

The 19th Amendment Book Club held its first meeting in late October after reading *The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss. Although the deadline for the November Voter came before that meeting, there has been informal discussion among some of those reading the book and all agree that it is well-written, full of well-researched information that includes things that we already knew and much that we did not! Someone stated that it is a great affirmation of the successes that can be won when women work hard and long to change the direction of our country!

Watch for the announcement, in the December *Voter*, of the time and place of the second meeting of the Book Club and for the title of the book that we will be reading and discussing. All League members are welcome to participate!

Our Second Celebration Activity – A Student Essay Contest!

Wonderful news of a second activity in our celebration of the ratification of the 19th amendment is that Krista Threefoot is working with the Howard County Public School System to sponsor a Student Essay Contest for high school students. She has met with school system supervisors and a full report will be included in our next *Voter*.

To the Future: The summer of 2020 will mark the 100th anniversary of the final state needed to ratify the 19th amendment. Do you know the state that had that honor? Did you know that Maryland originally rejected the 19th Amendment on February 24, 1920? Did we ever ratify? If yes, when? How is the founding of the League of Women Voters tied to one of the leaders of the suffragist movement?

We hope to have a new event announced each month through the summer of 2020. If you have an idea or would like to organize an event, please let Amber Treat at amber.treat@gmail.com or Thea Jones at tjones89@comcast.net know of your interest in volunteering! See the October *Voter* for a list of possible events. Do some creative thinking! Find a friend and work together to design an event to celebrate this hard-won victory for women!

Share your Story!

Have you been a league member for decades?

Are you a history buff?

Do you have a story to share about women in government, democracy or the League?

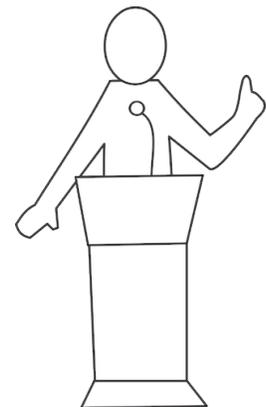
The League is planning several events where your experience and talents could contribute to the quality of the programming. Please let us know you are interested and the topics you would be comfortable sharing.

Some examples:

- Educate students on the power of the vote.
- Speak at Libraries about Women in History.
- Participate as a panel member on democracy.
- Inform an audience on any of the pressing issues of today.

The League will support all Speakers in preparing for the events on any topics.

If you are interested in learning more, email hocolwv@gmail.com or call Yvette Diamond. 301.712.8765





Getting the Tax Benefits of Your Charitable Donations for 2019

Beth Hufnagel

You may be aware that new limits on charitable deductions are now in effect. However, there is still a way to get the benefits of supporting your favorite charitable organization (the LWVHC, perhaps?) AND lowering your overall tax bill for 2019.

Not everyone qualifies. You need to have an IRA with a required minimum distribution (RMD) and be older than 70 ½. If that's you, then you can contribute some or all of your RMD directly to the charity of your choice and that part of the RMD will not be taxable income to you. (This is on your federal income or estate return; state law may be different.) Any RMD that you've already taken for 2019 won't qualify, but there's always next year!

The trick is to fill out a form that your plan administrator will provide, have them distribute the contribution directly, and not personally take any of the RMD. Your plan administrator is required to distribute the RMD as you instruct.

If you decide that this is what you want to do, you will need the following information to complete the form you get from your plan administrator:

Legal Name: The League of Women Voters of Howard County Education Fund Inc.

Address: 5430 Vantage Point Road, Suite C, Columbia, MD 21044

Telephone: 410-730-0142

Tax ID: 52-1789005

Some plan administrators do not provide the donor's name when they send the contribution, so if you'd like us to know it's from you, please send us an email or call with the name of your financial institution and the amount of your gift.

Innovation Summit

Lucie Geinzer

The Innovation Summit was convened by the Office of the County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball, to discuss current innovations that are taking place in Howard County and to introduce a new website named the Howard County Data Analytics and Statistics Hub (HoCo DASH.) The website is <https://dash.howardcountymd.gov/>.

Opening remarks were made by Dr. Ralph Semmel, Director of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL.) Dr. Semmel named several Howard County based companies that are spin offs from APL research, such as Sensics, Inc, a leader in virtual reality eye wear products; TeamWorx, which defends against asymmetrical cyber threats; and FRIS, which develops autonomous vehicles.

Current innovations that APL is working on include noninvasive brain computer interfaces, war-fighting swarms, solid state thermoelectric converters, robotics, and an electronic surveillance system for the early notification of epidemics.

In this vein, Dr. Ball presented innovative projects for Howard County. One such goal is to replace fossil fuel use with solar power and reach 20% use of solar power by 2025. Another goal, of reduction of traffic and emissions, will occur through building more bike lanes, expanding bus service, and increased bus ridership. HoCo Dash is a starting place for Howard County government's efforts to increase performance management on all its projects.

HoCo Dash synthesizes data to set targets and goals. It tracks and measures progress on specific county-wide outcomes. It also serves as a hub for community data and analyses. For the purposes of the HoCo DASH website, data is displayed on an annual basis to show a summary of key performance measures and objectives that reflect the County's priorities.

Dr. Ball announced the establishment of an Innovation Fund of \$225,000 to invest in solving the problems of tomorrow. Monies will be disbursed based on a formal grant application process. Applications will be accepted from October 15 through December 6, 2019. Decisions will be made in January 2020. Community and government organizations should submit ideas that are innovative and original. The programs suggested should result in greater efficiencies and be measurable. Email dash@howardcountymd.gov to submit your idea. Contact Jimmy Kwak at jkwak@howardcountymd.gov if you want to partner with the County on performance measures.

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

CONTACT US

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